

Relay of pornographic Russian Channel at Kanishka Hotel, New Delhi

3240. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi relays pornographic Russian Channel TBG in rooms at midnight despite ban;

(b) the reasons for I.T.D.C. not adhering to the ban imposed by I and B Ministry; and

(c) what is Government's policy of public morality in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government policy on the matter is reflected in Doordarshan's Programme and Advertisement code which does not permit programmes which glorify violence or obscenity or project derogatory image of women or offend against good taste or decency or against public morality etc. Indian satellite channels, which have been given permission to uplink from India are also required to adhere to Doordarshan's programme code and advertisement code.

In addition encrypted foreign satellite channels when transmitted through cable networks are required to adhere to the programme/advertisement code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which also prohibits carriage of programmes in the cable service which offend against good taste or decency or contain anything obscene or denigrate women through the depiction in any manner of the figure of a women, her form or body or any part thereof.

Return of precious diamonds and jewels from Britain

3241. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to bring back the precious diamonds and jewels taken away by the British Government at different points of time in history;

(b) what are the names of such items of jewellery; and

(c) whether there have been any outcome in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of any inventory of valuable articles taken by Britishers while leaving India. The Ministry of External Affairs informed that the Culture, Media and Sports Committee of British House of Commons, which is chaired by Gerald Kaufman is presently conducting an inquiry entitled "Cultural Property: Return and Illicit Trade". The objective of the inquiry is to make recommendations with regard to issues relating to claims for return of cultural properties, which were historically removed and policies of Museums on such claims including solutions other than return. The Committee is not, however, expected to make any recommendations on individual claims. The Indian High Commission in London has discussed the matter with Kaufman Committee.

Water supply to Pauri Garhwal

3242. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the failure of various lift schemes to provide adequate water supply to the 6000 feet high Pauri (Garhwal) City, any survey for providing water to Pauri Garhwal by means to Gravity Schemes from Nanghat has been carried out;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and feasibility of the contemplated project; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No reports have been received regarding the failure of various lift schemes for providing adequate water supply to Pauri (Garhwal) city and the survey conducted for supplying water to Pauri by gravity schemes from Nanghat.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.